

P20845.A02



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9-19-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Thomas THORÖE SCHERB et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Appln. No. : 09/880,061

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : June 14, 2001

For : MACHINE AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A FIBROUS MATERIAL
WEB

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,
Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

- (1) European Patent Application No. 0 926 296 A2, published June 30, 1999, which is discussed in the present application beginning in paragraph [0004] of the disclosure;
- (2) International Publication No. WO 97/03247, published January 30, 1997, which is discussed in the present application beginning in paragraph [0005] of the disclosure; and
- (3) German Patent Application No. 99 125 789.0, which is discussed in the present application beginning in paragraph [0021] of the disclosure. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants note that this document has been published as European Patent Application No. 1 016 754 A1, which is an equivalent to the above-cited document.

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a German Search Report dated October 16, 2000 conducted in German Patent Application No. 100 32 251.4, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the German Examiner cited:

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(4) Austrian Patent No. 333 584 issued November 25, 1976, as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category). In particular, the Examiner noted Figure 1, and page 3 paragraph 2 as relevant to claims 1 - 4, and 18 - 20 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 4,664,359 issued to Hertwich on May 12, 1987, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document;

(5) U.S. Patent No. 1,025,822 issued to Millsbaugh on May 7, 1912, as a "Y" category document. In particular, the Examiner noted Figure 1 as relevant to claims 1 - 4 and 18 - 20 of the German application;

(6) European Patent Application No. 0 926 296 A2, published June 30, 1999, as a "D" category document (i.e., a document discussed in the present application). Applicants note that this document is listed as item (1) above; and

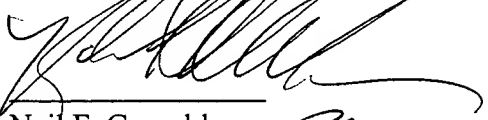
(7) International Publication No. WO 97/03247, published January 30, 1997, as a "D" category document. Applicants note that this document is listed as item (2) above.

Copies of the above-listed documents (including a copy of the German Search Report) are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

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Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas THORÖE SCHERB et al.


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September 14, 2001
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